



The Texas Silver-Haired Legislature



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May 27, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker:

I am writing to voice my support for the proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile. As a lifelong Texan involved in organizations and public policy affecting senior citizens and low-income Texans and rural communities, I hold a unique perspective on the benefits this merger would afford us.

My interest in this merger centers on the profound and positive affect it could have on un-served and under-served rural communities. My work in the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature, including my service as a member of the Texas Delegation to the National Silver Haired Congress, coupled with my involvement in farm and ranch landowner associations has informed my viewpoint. This merger represents the best opportunity to advance broadband access to the widest number of communities and individuals across rural America.

Many seniors live on fixed or low incomes, but they shouldn't have to pay the price of isolation without connections to health care, family, and friends because they live in low revenue producing rural areas without broadband access. This merger stands to put telemedicine experts, family, and grandkids closer to more senior Texans and other older adults than any single company could on its own.

The merger deserves approval as it also would mean that farm and ranch owners all across Texas would be able to run their businesses from the palm of their hand, taking advantage of applications that require much higher data speeds than landline services can provide.

Pat Porter
Secretary, Texas Silver-Haired Legislature
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